

## IV. Population, Land Use, and Existing Transportation System

In order to fulfill the objectives of an adequate thirty-year transportation plan, reliable forecasts of future travel patterns must be achieved. Such forecasts depend on careful analysis of the following items: historic and potential population changes; significant economic trends; character and intensity of land development; and the ability of the existing transportation system to meet existing and future travel demand. Secondary items that influence forecasts include the effects of legal controls such as zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations, availability of public utilities and transportation facilities, and topographic and other physical features of the area.

### ***Population***

Since the volume of traffic on a roadway is related to the size and distribution of the population that it serves, population data is used to aid the development of the transportation plan. Future population estimates typically rely on the observance of past population trends and counts. Table 2 presents the population and housing trends for Swansboro, the Swansboro Township, and Onslow County as established by the U.S. Census Bureau.

**Table 2**

<b>Population Growth</b>			
<b>Area</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Housing Units</b>
Onslow	1970	103,126	25,547
	1980	112,784	35,437
	1990	149,838	47,526
	2000	150,355	55,726
	2005	157,738	-
Swansboro Township	1970	20,800	1,882
	1980	23,446	3,225
	1990	10,115	4,588
	2000	15,103	6,602
	2005	-	-
Swansboro	1970	1,207	410
	1980	976	420
	1990	1,165	586
	2000	1,426	770
	2005	1,734	-